

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 /019 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9808

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: OIL EXPLORATION IN EGYPT: LVO DRILLING IN WADI NATRUN

1. ONLY EXPLORATORY ONSHORE DRILLING NOW GOING IN EGYPT IS THAT OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENT OIL COMPANY LVO (DESCRIBED AS COMPANY OWNED BY GROUP OF AMERICAN FARM COOPERATIVES WHICH SEARCHING FOR OIL TO USE IN WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY REFINERIES IN THE UNITED STATES.) LVO IS DRILLING SINGLE WELL IN WADI NATRUN ABOUT 13 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE ALEXANDRIA/CAIRO DESERT ROAD, NEAR SAN MACARIUS MONASTERY. AREA IS ONE WHICH AMOCO PREVIOUSLY EXPLORED AND DRILLED DRY WELL IN LATE SIXTIES. LVO OPERATORS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL STRIKE OIL IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES, THEIR SEISMIC PATTERS SHOW THEM TO BE OVER A PROMISING STRUCTURE. WELL ALREADY AT 6200 FEET, VO HOPEFUL FOR OIL IN THE RANGE OF 8000 OR 10,000 FEET.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF WESTERN DESERT REGION'S POTENTIAL LVO GEOLOGIST TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEIR DATA SHOWS IT UNLIKELY THERE CAN BE LARGE FIELDS OF OIL IN WESTERN DESERT, A LA SAUDI ARABIA, BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL NUMBER OF FAULTS INDICATING HEAVY TECTONIC ACTIVITY. FOR THIS REASON, HE BELIEVES WESTERN DESERT WILL BE MORE COSTLY TO EXPLOIT THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.

3. COMMENT: LVO DRILLING IS FIRST OF MAJOR DRILLING PLANS WHICH COMPANIES WILL UNDERTAKE AS RESULT TERMS OF OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED IN 1974/75. WHILE MOST OF THE ACTIVITY IN 1976 WILL BE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ/RED SEA AREA, WESTERN DESERT

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WILL HAVE ITS SHARE. MINISTER HILAL CONTINUES BE HOPEFUL OF MAJOR

DISCOVERY IN WESTERN DESERT.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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